

# THE LESBIAN TIDE

A FEMINIST LESBIAN PUBLICATION, WRITTEN BY AND FOR THE RISING TIDE OF WOMEN TODAY

**California Goes on Alert!  
Armageddon in Houston**

**Gay Bowl Bombs**

**Fat And Fierce**

**Reviews:**

**Meg Hits,  
Joy of Sex Misses**



Lily Tomlin creates feminist oasis in Hollywood Bowl Human Rights Benefit.

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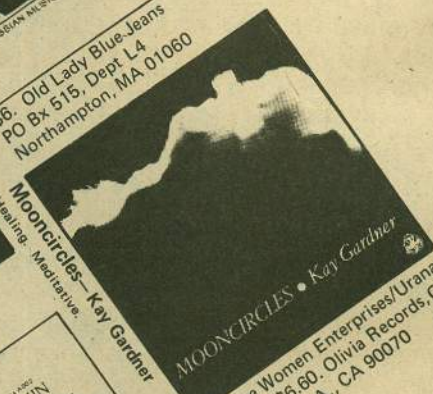
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# Lesbian Tide

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## EDITORIAL POLICY

In the interest of fostering open communication and progressive theoretical development, *The Lesbian Tide* prints a wide variety of views from the lesbian, feminist, and gay communities. Our editorial perspective also includes coverage of other social change movements as they relate to women. The views expressed in this publication are not those of Tide Publications or the Editorial and Political Collective unless specifically by-lined as such.

The Editorial and Political Collective is a group of radical feminist lesbians who believe basic change in our society is a pre-requisite to real liberation for women and lesbians. We publish editorials stating our views and analysis on particular issues.

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Cover photo by Glori Waco



# Hollywood Bowl, A Sexist Bomb

By Jeanne Cordova

I walked into the Hollywood Bowl Benefit for Human Rights and sat in silent disgust as 15,000 gays pledged a flag that promises, "a land of the free." I booed and screamed hearing comedienne David Steinberg quip, "You know those Las Vegas audiences have the mentality of a PSA stewardess." I sat in horror with 4,000 sisters as Richard Pryor defined lesbianism as "pussy eating." I was numb by the time Bette Midler tramped on stage looking like a drag queen.

Watching \$10,000 worth of finale fireworks evaporate against the Hollywood sky, I thought bitterly about the \$2,000 my friend couldn't raise to fight for her kid in court. And I knew I'd been a fool because none of the performers (save Lily Tomlin), none of the producers, none of my gay "brothers" knew or gave a damn about what it means to be a woman.



Susan Carlin

## For Whose Benefit?

A second humiliating aspect of "Star Spangled Night" was the fact that a straight producer took \$350,000 out of the Los Angeles gay community, paid 75% of it to other straights and fireworks, and gave 25% to a San Francisco educational trusteeship in which he has a controlling interest.

**A straight producer made \$350,000 of gay money, then paid 75% of it to other straights and fireworks.**

Aaron Russo, Bette Midler's manager and the Concert's producer, is a man whom sources have called everything from a "crook" to "a genius." According to Hollywood Bowl officials, Russo rented the huge stadium on June 7, the day of the Dade County defeat. Although Russo's office has not yet, after one and a half months, released an official budget, two L. A. papers put the net profit at \$100,000 and \$160,000.

These funds will purportedly go to a special trusteeship of the San Francisco based Save Our Human Rights, Inc. SOHR is a predominantly gay educational organization which was formed this summer in reaction to the Florida defeat. A press release issued by seven Los Angeles gay organizations explains that Russo, his attorney Gerald Edelstein, and his accountant, Ralph Goldman, are three of the five trustees who will determine what becomes of the net profit. Board members of SOHR, Nancy Roth and Tom Landers, are the other two trustees. Both Roth and Landers are new to the gay rights movement. A further unfortunate note is that SOHR is prohibited from spending funds for political lobbying so none of the Bowl monies may be used to fight California's impending battle against the anti-gay teachers ballot measure.

Protesting that many financial questions remain unanswered, gays across the country are questioning the benefit of this particular Benefit.

## Behind The Scenes

The questioning however began long before the September 18 event took place, and indeed until September 1 it didn't look like there was going to be a "gay Bowl" at all. Russo's invitation to co-sponsor the event was turned down by the L.A. Gay Commu-



nity Services Center, The Human Rights Coalition, the Gay Rights Chapter of the ACLU, and the New Alliance for Gay Equality. Echoing the sentiments of all four, New AGE Board member Diane Abbitt explained, "Russo refused to submit a budget. On top of that he wanted us to pick up deficit financing (Liability in case the project ran into the red)."

How the 500-mile-away SOHR got into the act is anyone's guess. But it was then four weeks until "show time" and process of elimination seemed to be Russo's modus operandi.

### The Concert

The Hollywood night was clear and cool. The audience was hot. The rich dykes came out of their hill homes in black satin tuxedos, the long string of Mercedes lined the back parking lot, the movie stars and the producers who made them filed quietly into the front row boxes, the silent majority of gay suburbia streamed in by the thousands, and the \$5 back row "flats", as Midler later called them, teamed with the poor but real backbone of lesbian and gay liberation.

For a few hours it was Valerie Harper and Paul Newman who had come to our party. Everyone came with a fantasy that at long last, it was our night, we were going to hear about our suffering, our cause.

The Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra opened with a poignant majesty, and then came Lily. All 15,000 stood in ovation before she could open her mouth. The fantasy was alive and no one was closer to our ideal than this woman who had "made it" being her own kind of woman.

Rumor had it that Tomlin wasn't happy with having to play to a huge outdoor audience where her usually subtle caricatures might be lost in the wide open Bowl. In truth, Tomlin's performance has been

## Bette Midler's nearest notion of feminism was drag queens' rights.

better, but as she quipped her way through with one liners about women, the ERA, and civil rights, she could do no wrong that evening. Even as she prepared to exit after a sweet but irrelevant ditty about her straight grammar school teacher, the audience stood again for three minutes.

It is difficult to remember the succession of irrelevance, mediocrity and insults which followed Tomlin. And I doubt it matters. As more than one viewer put it, "it was all downhill after Lily."

At one point I looked up to watch a hot ballet pasde deux. Insulting. Meaningless. Some time later I accidentally stopped talking to my friend long enough to hear David Steinberg devote five minutes to "the four different kinds of erections." Gratefully it was half time. Glumly I realized I couldn't leave because my car was trapped with a thousand others in the unlined parking lots.

Knowing that Richard Pryor was your garden variety "tits and ass" comedian when it comes to women, and realizing Bette Midler's nearest notion of femi-



Photo by Glori Waco

Bette Midler, salty queen, speaks to gay men, not women.

nism was drag queen's rights, I had been wary from the start. But like the other thousands of women present, I had come to witness what promised to be an historic event for gays.

Even in an alternative publication it's difficult to quote what Richard Pryor said that night. If you take the eight filthiest nouns and verbs you know, particularly those most degrading to women, throw in a preposition with a dash of pronouns—that was Pryor's act. For openers the comedian defined human rights as "licking dick." Sometime later, noticing the women, he added, "and eating pussy."

It's impossible to know what Pryor originally intended to say because unlike Midler and Tomlin, he didn't rehearse. Initially he appeared to be caustically commenting on the racism of the gay movement. He searched the audience for blacks. "Oh yeah, way over there, I see a nigger. And look, another one up there!" Loudly he shouted, "So where were you motherfuckers when Watts burned?" If you listened very closely through the obscenities and had any racial consciousness, it could be guessed that he was trivializing sexuality issues in the same way rich and middle class gays ignore the reality of poverty.

But Pryor got into real trouble with the line, "You bitches don't need no Equal Rights Amendment, take your money down to welfare." The women stood and booed. From there Pryor appeared to let go and totally lapsed into sullen and bitter insults. "I'll do anything with a bitch. . . .put cocaine on her clit," "You

## Feminists endured listening to a white racist apologize for a black sexist.

motherfuckers don't know nothin' about human rights." Turning his ass to the audience, whose shock had turned into a low, confused grumble,

*continued on page 37*



# Robes and Rackets

by Z Budapest

The doorbell rings, my trusty bitch goes into a hate tirade - - the all-out defense system has been set off by two Brooks-brothers' suited men on my front porch. They are from the Latter Day Saints, Mormons. They teach serenity because the world is coming to an end, don't I see it? The weather crisis, the food shortage? And they have the Way. I ask them how the wimmin fare in their religion, and they look puzzled. How come I am interested in that issue at all? Why don't I reach for my raped purse with no money in it and somehow give them my blood?

A day later my bell rings again. This time my dog has a medium defense bark; it must be wimmin, I think. Indeed, on the front porch are two wimmin with a small baby. They are from the Jehovah's Witnesses, and they have a map in their church indicating every house and neighborhood in their area and who lives in them. They have come to talk to me about "death a-coming," that Jehovah is angry with the world, and don't I see it in the famine, the weather changes, the rising divorce rate, etc. I ask what about the wimmin in their religion, and they assure me that Jehovah likes wimmin. See, here they are soliciting! I ask, why not leave the child with a man, and do you have wimmin priests? The wimmin bristle and can't talk anymore. I show them Elizabeth Cady Stanton's Woman's Bible; it impresses them, but they are leaving.

Picking up a friend at the airport, a young woman approaches me with a flower. Would I love one? Yes, I say. That'll be a dollar, she says. What for? For the flower, it's for the Moonie religion, Universal, we embrace everybody, she says. I ask, you embrace Witches, too? She changes color and takes her flower back. "Nobody embraces Witches," she states. I do, I say.

It's Sunday and I wake up with the Sisterhood of the Wicca outreach policy on my mind. My lover and I decide to check out Metropolitan Community Church, the gay church. We catch a really important show, the passing of the keys of the mother church to a new pastor, Mr. Peterson, a blond man with blue eyes. Everybody is there, Troy Perry the founder, others who have been pastors of gays in this church, and a very impressive showing from the City Council. Peggy Stevenson and three more officials from City Hall, even a deputy from the mayor's office, all speak. How wonderful it is - - a gay church! There is One female deacon, Frieda, a woman I know from the past. She is always marshalled out against me as "the other side" when I talk about Witchcraft. Frieda is billed for one blessing, and it has been two hours already and still hasn't gotten to say her blessing. The men preach Jesus loves gays, but it's still Men he



Graphic by Markswoman

loves. Frieda finally gets to say her two lines. I am astonished that this is the woman who is sent out to the community to say wimmin have power in this MCC, that they are treated as equals as gays. Lies! Suddenly Peterson is agitated; he wants to say something deep after his newly consecrated position has been established, and yes, he says, it is burning his bosom. Then he tells the story of how he swam out real deep into the lake one day to hear god talk to him, and when he got back he cried out with all his heart, "Let me be the last pastor of this church!"

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**New religions have  
one thing in common;  
no women allowed.**

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The audience shivers, they understand that he is calling down the End of the World. "Death calling! Black Magic!" I whisper to my lover as we leave. I hear the golden collection plates piled high with fear money, and I hear them bless the money according to Witchcraft rules, to come back tenfold to the giver. I ache and I am angry. When will wimmin have their own Shrine? Use their own heritage?

New Age religions are something different from these and have one thing in common: no wimmin allowed. Witches get bad propaganda even from New Age religions; they caution the converts not to invoke the Goddess. Full page ads in the Times from a



Witches' group who wrote a book about the Craft managing not to mention the Goddess at all. Per-versions and all-out denial of the female.

My mail brings a letter from another group of Witches who have found out a new campaign is coming up from Anita Bryant, targeting Witches instead of gays. I cringe. Will the Witches march in the streets in their own defense? Will the gays help as the Witches did? I remember talking to a Druid friend of mine; she says it's going to be another burning time and the Druids are digging in. I refuse to believe that. I keep fighting for the legalization of prophecy.

What to do? First of all, wake up! There is a religious war on, and wimmin think it is only the "normal" political climate. It has been so unfriendly in patriarchy we hardly notice the new torture systems. We always had religious persecution, but it was hidden: it was in tax loopholes the churches escaped through, it was expressed in paychecks the government handed over to parochial school systems, it was in the rip-offs of the aged who were "taken care of" by the churches. Today the biggest racket is drug addiction, with patriarchy playing both sides. Synanon, Tuum Est, they are supposedly helping the problem. I know a woman who had to give up ALL her possessions to Synanon, even her books; the woman is a physician. How is this different from the scene in "Godspell", where a woman forces her little girl to kiss Yogi Bajan's embroidered slippers?

The political arena is religion and always has been, and New Age religions are just another form of Judeo-christianity, only this time in saffron robes. Judeo-christianity and its Witch hunters want some of the revolutionary fervor, the tv coverage, the group meetings, the agitation and struggle the Left developed to capture attention for themselves in the cultural arena. They want the end of the world - everything else is dead. The neutron bomb is the manifestation of this deadness; it only kills people, while buildings remain intact. Death worship attained to its



Graphic by Markswoman

fullest. Society and religion fixed on dying.

In the midst of all this, Feminist Witches want a Shrine to the Woman Divine. Wimmin want a sacred place to manifest the divinity in all females, to glorify this divinity as the Mother, Maiden and Crone, to include all the different ethnic Goddesses, the Asheras, the Corn Goddesses, Liliths and Athenas and Heras and the rest. A real place with trees and serenity, a culture and Her soul in every corner, where regular wimmin's religious celebrations will take place, divination, trysting of lovers, purification of the sick, dedication of newborn babies, and memorial ceremonies for the passed souls. A SHRINE. A Spiritual Life.

Donations toward the Shrine of Woman Divine may be sent to: The Feminist Wicca, 442 Lincoln Blvd., Venice CA 90291.

## SONGS AND DANCES OF THE WOMAN WITHIN

by Robin Lou Trusty-Hiersche

### THE BOOK

The author's standards as a writer were a gift from J.D. Salinger. They are two: "Were all your stars out? Were you writing your heart out?" SONGS AND DANCES OF THE WOMAN WITHIN is a collection of fine feminist poems which explore the manifestations of self-hood...things most of us have thought about but lack the ability to put into words. An expression of growth and change and identity, they are written with clarity and poetic vision. This is marvelous, magical verse.

Ms. Trusty-Hiersche writes from the heart... Her stars are out.

### THE AUTHOR

**Robin Lou Trusty-Hiersche** is a feminist and a humanist.

"Where or in what institutions I have spent my time is not important; what is important is the people I have met there. My poetry is the best autobiography I can give you."



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# Big Hipped, Beautiful, and Fierce

by Cheri Lesh

A billow of ocean breathes and sighs under a thin plastic skin. Alice's water bed is a huge warm breast cradling three women, a sea Goddess purring an ancient melody of love. Alice, Tessa and Cheri. Words like abundance, pendulous, pulchritude, plump, puffy, perfect, rolling in and out of my head like waves. I am overwhelmed by this wealth of flesh. Alice; honeydew breasts, firm casaba hips, sweet pink vulva fruit. Tessa; skin sagging in a cross-hatching of silk, breasts like cumulus clouds. As a child I thought cumulus clouds formed the first circle of heaven. Now I know it's true. Lost in softness more tender than fantasy. Tossed between soft ephemeral cloud patterns of flesh and the firm rotundity of the earth mother. Lying in this lush garden of flesh I puzzle over the mystery. How did bodies so sensuous and beautiful every come to be seen as ugly? What does the culture see in bones and angles? Why does every magazine and newspaper deny the sensuousness of flesh, desecrating its beauty with harsh words; "cellulite", "ugly fat", "unsightly bulges"?

First, let's be honest. Culture is dictated by men. Men declare which body type is acceptable and enforce their desires by selectively breeding with women who fit their standard. The broad-shouldered Amazons so common in ancient Greek statuary have nearly been bred out of existence. Examine the "fertility Goddesses" depicted in old statues; they are enormous, fat, fecund, powerful. To the patriarchy, this image is as terrifying as that of the fierce, broad-shouldered Amazons. To men, women are frightening, potent and powerful. The mother who gave them life is the most potent and powerful of all. The macho myth of male superiority is too fragile to withstand comparison to the strength and physical power emanating from big women. The solution is to twist the obvious around to the devious; fat women represent not power, but "lack of will power". By making fat seem freakish, weak and ugly, the threat which big women pose to patriarchal role models is defused.

By matching the feminine ideals of different eras with the politics of those eras one can see a definite pattern begin to emerge. Fat women are acceptable, valued sex objects in societies where the men are completely secure about their superior social position, completely relaxed about their indisputable economic power. As men get more threatened by feminism, their female ideals get smaller and smaller -- as if they could will us into disappearing.

The 1920's in this country saw the slender vogue for the first time in Western patriarchal society since the Middle Ages, when the Catholic Church dictated that women should transcend their sinful, earthy fecundity and vanish into asexual, narrow-shouldered, wraithlike beings. The women pictured in paintings done in this period are stoop-shouldered, pale, pitiful-

looking creatures. Sex and pleasure were considered sinful, sensuality was at its lowest ebb. When the life-force triumphed during the Renaissance, full figures came back, art and literature sparkled, song and dance celebrated the pleasures of earthly love. The 1920's in this country saw the crest of a new wave of feminism. Women got the vote. The E.R.A. was introduced in Congress. More women were going to college, taking jobs, becoming financially independent. Suddenly the full figure vanished. Women obediently bound their breasts so they would look flat-chested, began taking up the "fad" diets of the day, and shaved off their body hair to look "feminine" (read: nonsexual, immature) in their newly "liberated" fashions. As feminism subsided under the onslaught of the depression and wars, the hourglass figure began creeping back. But when Feminism experienced a renaissance in the 1960's, emaciation became stylish again, enforced by high protein diets, grapefruit diets, macrobiotic diets, fasting, liquid protein diets and exercise programs designed to "whittle away unwanted inches." It's a fact that people who are starving can't fight very hard. It is also a fact that for many women in this country the "battle of the bulge" is an all-consuming war on the self, consuming each woman with self-hatred and insecurity while exhausting her financial and emotional resources. How can a woman with forty-three inch hips find the time to worry about the E.R.A. or abortion laws? All her energy is drained into the constant struggle to lose weight so that some dude ex machina will condescend to uplift her from her lowly status and enslave her happily ever after.

One of the main benefits which patriarchy reaps from perpetuating impossible beauty standards is the competition between women. Women come in all different sizes, always have. By uplifting one body type and downgrading all others, the man ensures that jealousy will prevent women from learning to cooperate and throw off their oppression. Women learn to hate each other as well as internalizing self-hatred and despair. Fat women hate thin women for having "privileged" sex object bodies. Thin and medium-sized women hate fat women because they fear that they may "slip" and end up looking like her. One of the most revealing phrases women use to discuss other women who are fatter than they are is the sneer, "I'd never let myself go like that." "Letting go" is a process of clearing one's space. It can also mean liberation. So this comment may be translated as, "I'd never liberate myself like that." Fat does represent freedom; freedom from patriarchal values, freedom from the heterosexual flesh markets. Because fat women are so thoroughly rejected in our culture they may become de facto separatists. Just thinking

Graphic By Gudrun



about that much freedom -- freedom from male approval, freedom to be one's self -- is terrifying to most women. Fat women take up a lot of space, they look imposing, they are noticeable. For women conditioned to do their utmost to be invisible, nonoffensive non-entities, the "I AM" declaration inherent in large bodies is unbearably bold and audacious.

Worst of all, patriarchal beauty standards keep us at arm's length from each other, prevent us from being lovers. We are so accustomed to hating our own bodies that we hate other women's bodies as well. Jealousy, anger, insecurity, all conspire to keep us

## The "I AM" declaration inherent in large bodies is bold and audacious.

apart. Fat women suffer the most, but anti-fat attitudes divide us all, weakening our movement and breaking our hearts. We must reject the mythology surrounding fatness and see it for what it is -- a cunning diversion meant to destroy female unity. As a thin woman I cannot comprehend the daily pain and degradation my fat sisters endure. I can only write this love letter and say; "You are beautiful. You are beautiful. I love your apple cheeks, your rolling buttocks, the dimples in your elbows, the deep well of your navels, the way the flesh puckers around your thighs. I love the way you stand, immovable, important, planted on your feet like an oak strong enough to withstand any wind. I love the way you sit, flesh folding into so many clefts and crevices. And I love the way you lie down for love, all softness and acceptance, your bodies curving into hills and valleys. Through our sweat and passion, we will mingle our bodies until we rise as one, birthing ourselves out of the darkness into the majestic, archetypal SHE, loving and loving and loving....

Until she rises as though from the sea  
not on the half-shell this time  
nothing to laugh at  
and not so delicate as he imagined her:  
a woman big-hipped, beautiful, and fierce.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>From A Cycle of Women by Sharon Barba

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*If only to have been born in that clever cave age when a goddess was recognized as a goddess, when her heavy solid step indented the soft earth and footprint shrines were preserved in hungry memory.*

— Gudrun Fonfa

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# Profile: Live Oak Woman, Practicing Pagan



Feminist high priestess wants to build shrine for goddess worship.

by Cheri Lesh

Live Oak Woman, Priestess of the Susan B. Anthony Coven No. 1, co-manager of The Feminist Wicca and Co-President of Covenant of the Goddess, has been a practicing Pagan nearly all of her life. Her basic introduction to Paganism took place when she was a child living in Mexico; "When mother wasn't watching I dashed about-into the jungle. One day, someone invited me to a peyote circle." She had her first vision at the peyote circle. Since then (at age six!) Live Oak Woman has felt that she had a destiny.

Fortunately for the L.A. women's community, Oak's destiny included feminism as well as Witchcraft, and that mixture brought her to the West Coast. Oak was not originally attracted to the feminism movement however. "I thought-white middle class women raising hell-what do they know-I shined it on-I had the typical attitude of my people-that white women were talking about sexual problems, we were talking about bread and butter issues. I didn't see the connection. I was raising a family and was caught up in day to day struggle."

But Halloween 1974 brought not only the Witches' new year but a new life for Oak. Suddenly she wanted to hear what the feminists had to say. The change was sudden. "December 21 I was brought

out. I decided that I would come out as a practicing Witch. I embraced feminism that same night. Someone said, "Why don't you do a ritual for us so I said, 'Sure, why not?' Later on one of the women said, "Why don't you come home with me, you might like it." So I said 'Sure, why not?' That night my whole life changed."

Six months later she realized that her life-style had to change to mesh with her politics. Her husband agreed to take care of her seven children and Live Oak Woman left Denver and headed for California. It was necessary but not easy. "At thirty I had done nothing that I wanted to do. I did what I had to do. I was very duty-bound

I was a very duty-bound person. It was hard on me, hard on my children, hard on my family. But I never agreed not to grow." Live Oak Woman talked to a number of Priestesses on the West Coast. But when she walked into The Feminist Wicca, she knew she was home. Oak discusses the unique importance of the Dianic Coven; "A Dianic Coven is the muscle of woman's power, the quintessence of woman's power. If there was a pool which it could all fall into, lesbianism would be that pool. Lesbian spirituality is the bull's eye of the women's movement. In my own culture, the Lesbian Priestess is the crown of the hat. She is not divided by artificial dualism, she can get completely in touch with the female principle. But women's spirituality is for all women, not just lesbians."

Live Oak Woman's spiritual work is her political contribution to the community. "Priestessing is my life. I put in a sixteen-hour day." Besides her work in The Feminist Wicca, Oak is currently working on the play, *Rise of the Fates*, studying sidereal astrology and the Tarot and working through legal channels to get the laws against psychics and divination off the books. The play, which was performed for the women's community on ALLHALLOWS EVE, was a benefit for the Shrine of Woman Divine. Eventually the Susan B. Coven hopes to buy land and build a temple. For now they are looking for a place in the city where women can gather safely to be Priestessed and to explore their spirituality in ceremonial and non-ceremonial ways. Oak describes their dream-space as "A big studio to contain projects-a library, a place for writers and organizers, a place where good sized circles can be held, a place where empowerment can take place, a place where women will be taught Tarot. Ultimately, a place where women will be taught how to Priestess themselves. We envision this as a life-work to benefit all women. When you open a church you have to deal with everybody. Women who are not lesbians, women who are not political, every-

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# EMERGENCE

## CYNTHIA MACADAMS

### INTRODUCTION KATE MILLETT

Embodied in the book, clear and bright to the beholder, is what MacAdams calls the "sensual, sexual, spiritual, experience of photographing these women" who range from street people to noted actresses, writers, poets, playwrights, such as Colleen Dewhurst, Patti Smith,

Kate Millett, Lily Tomlin, Jane Fonda, Anne Waldman, Gloria Steinem.

The camera, MacAdams finds, "is a tool to express love... each picture is a part of me and I live with it... when I find a moment, it's orgasmic."

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# Save Our Teachers!

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THE FIRST TO COME ALONG  
WHO SHOWED ME BEING FEMALE  
MEANT YOU STILL COULD BE STRONG  
AND THOUGH GRADUATION  
MEANT THAT WE HAD TO PART,  
SHE'LL ALWAYS BE A PLAYER  
ON THE BALLFIELD OF MY HEART.  
— MEG CHRISTIAN'S "ODE TO A GYMTEACHER"

Senator John Briggs, who flew to Dade County to campaign with Anita Bryant's Save Our Children effort, is gathering signatures on a petition to bring an anti-gay teachers' measure before the California voters. If this initiative passes, all gay employees within the California Public School System would be fired. Under the wording of the Briggs Initiative, any non-gay person who "advocates, solicits, imposes, encourages, or promotes private or public homosexual activity" would also be fired. In effect, any school employee who openly supports gay civil rights will be in danger of losing her job.

The New Alliance for Gay Equality (NEW AGE) is an alliance of gay and non-gay women and men which formed after Dade County. We are committed to fighting the Briggs Initiative with a massive educational media and political campaign to inform California voters about who gays really are. We need your help. Please join with us.

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## NEW AGE



## Teachers' Battle Looms

California's gay teachers are holding their breath hoping an anti-gay angel of death will pass over their jobs. It is feared that Senator J. Briggs will soon announce he has gathered enough signatures to put their ouster on the June 1978 ballot. Most activists are gravely concerned about the outcome of a ballot vote.

As California lesbians and gay men organize, Bobbi Bennett, Co-chair of the New Alliance for Gay Equality, explains the coming campaign. "We must take morality out of this issue and show 'middle-America' that this proposition will raise their property taxes, and we must show them this law is totally unnecessary anyway." The Briggs initiative calls for the School Board to foot the bill for hearings of gay teachers, and property taxes foot the bill for schools. Additionally, in a September public address Gov. Jerry Brown noted that his state already has several laws which protect school children from physical and psychological abuse.

The coming month is seen as critical because if Briggs doesn't announce by December it will indicate his campaign is moving too slowly to make his January deadline.

### Won't Lose Jobs

Although the passage of an anti-gay teachers proposition would mean a tremendous defeat for the gay rights movement, it is doubtful that any teachers would actually lose their jobs. According to California Attorney General Evelle Younger, the law will not stand up in court. "There are serious constitutional problems with any law that stops an individual from doing anything solely on the grounds that the individual is homosexual," says Younger. He went on to clarify that in order to be valid, laws must address the question of conduct rather than lifestyle.

But another sour note is that even if the courts void the passed proposition, the state could then appeal and place the issue before the U.S. Supreme Court. And that's bad news.

## California Goes On Orange Alert!

By Lin Duke

A statewide campaign to fight the Briggs initiative has been launched in California. Local ad hoc groups, aided by a Statewide Coordinating Committee, have called for a State Convention and numerous public education speakouts. The Convention, scheduled for Dec. 11-12 at the University of Southern Calif. campus in Los Angeles, will elect a state board to manage the campaign. Speakouts will take place up and down the state during the fall and spring. Gloria Steinem and noted researcher Evelyn Hooker will address a twelve noon Los Angeles speakout on Dec. 3 at Immaculate Heart College Auditorium in Hollywood.

### Unanimous agreement: the Briggs Initiative is our Dade County battle.

At an initial conference in Sacramento Sept. 24, approximately 100 participants unanimously agreed that the Briggs initiative is the most important issue confronting gays right now and that a massive, organized effort is needed to prevent California from becoming the next Dade County.

Recommendations for developing the campaign include acquiring an "800" phone number, establishing research committees and speakers bureaus in each city, developing professional media relations, and the possibility of each city obtaining a local terminal of a "gay computer". A large scale voter

registration drive, extending into rural areas, small towns and other unorganized areas, will ensure a large turnout at the polls of gays and supporters.

A statewide committee is needed to coordinate these actions, share information and avoid a duplication of efforts.

Despite historic animosity between lesbians and gay men, both sides appear to be trying to overcome the past. "I'm a separatist," says Rosalie Nichols, of San Jose's Ad Hoc Committee for Political Action, who now thinks it necessary to work in coalition with gay men "on limited projects of mutual benefit." "After all," she added, "if we're all put in concentration camps, there can't be Lesbian Nation." The women's caucus agreed that the majority of men at the conference were making an effort to be friendly and non-sexist.

Ivy Bottini, co-chair of the conference, has issued a call-to-arms to lesbians. You can't expect a handful of lesbian feminist 'leaders' to do the work and make decisions. We've all got to show up for those plenary sessions and make sure women's rights are protected."

Interim state representatives include Carol Hilder, coordinator of San Francisco's Gay Pride March; LaPaula Turner, Sacramento MCC; Geri Dilno, executive director of San Diego's Center for Gay Services; Jacque Miller, Lesbian Feminist Alliance of San Jose; Ivy Bottini, New A.G.E. and the Coalition for Human Rights; Judy Freespirit, Lesbian Feminists of Los Angeles and New A.G.E. and an equal number of men.

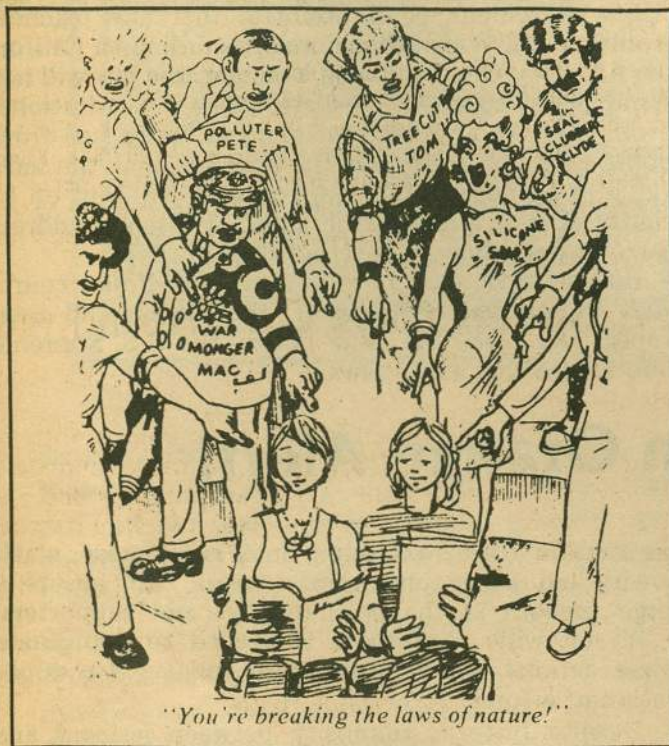
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## Orange Alert!

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A special effort is being made to involve women and minorities at all levels of the project and a foundation was laid for increased lesbian participation in the future. Resolutions from the women's caucus in support of: 1) the ERA; 2) full custody rights for lesbian mothers; 3) freedom of choice for all women, including Medi-Cal funding for abortions; 4) lesbian visibility at the IWY conference in Houston; 5) co-sexual media representation whenever possible, or a woman speaker if only one representative is chosen and 6) co-sexual convenors at meetings whenever possible, were enthusiastically passed by the body,



and it was agreed that each organization present would return to their groups to endorse and implement these positions, including full or partial funding of lesbian representatives to Houston.

Lesbians interested in further information about the Convention, speakouts, and general organizing should call (213) 463-3928 or (213) 392-4730.

### POLLS SHOW VOTE WILL BE CLOSE

According to a recent poll conducted by Marvin D. Field, 51% of Californians disapprove of a ban against gay school teachers. 52% say they would vote against employment discrimination laws prohibiting gays from jobs. Field's poll also showed that straights who personally know gays are far more favorable towards us than those who don't. 60% of heterosexuals who know us accept or approve of our lifestyle, while 33% of those who don't, don't. 5% of those surveyed were very negative about gays, another 43% were only "minimally tolerant" saying we should not be public about our lifestyle, and only 31% feel we should be protected by legislation.

(--stats from Advocate)

## Teacher Sues For Her Job

A veteran high school teacher in New York City has filed suit against the board of education charging that she was fired last fall for telling her students she is a lesbian.

In her suit, filed by the American Civil Liberties Union in Brooklyn Federal Court, Sallie Herson claims she was fired from Walton High School in the Bronx following a series of "rap sessions" with students in a drug rehabilitation class she was teaching.

The students had been discussing homosexuality, and Herson says she decided to tell them of her own sexual orientation because "students are able to understand the situation more clearly when they can relate to someone who admits they are gay."

"At no time," she says, "did I try to proselytize for homosexuality. I told them that just because I was gay, that was no reason for everyone to be gay."

Nonetheless, Herson was fired when school administrators learned of the conversation three weeks later. The suit asks the school board to reinstate her and award her back pay and legal fees.

Herson who has been teaching since 1963, says she has been "openly gay" for about three years. She previously was married and has three children.

In another school dispute, the East Detroit (Michigan) Board of Education has banned the appearance of gay speakers in the classroom. The ban stems from parental outcry over a recent talk by three gay speakers to an East Detroit high school sociology class on marriage.

Calling gay people "kooky" and "kinky," Trustee Ross Snowden warned that allowing gay speakers in the classroom increases "suspicion on the part of parents that the educational establishment has become ultra-ultra-ultra-liberal."

High School Principal John Sanders responded that the marriage class is an elective which does not count toward graduation requirements and that the course is the most popular in the sociology department.

The board passed the ban on gay speakers 5-0.

(--The Advocate)

### "LONG MARCH" FOR GAYS?

Several California gay groups are now tentatively planning a 700 mile statewide march, from San Diego to the capital in Sacramento, to protest Brigg's assault on gay teachers. Activists are now working on the obvious pragmatic problems involved but hope to be ready when and if Briggs announces he has gathered enough signatures. The march is tentatively planned for December, but may take place as late as the spring of 1978.



## WILL LABOR STEP FORWARD?

While most activists are treating the Briggs initiative as a gay issue, the Gay Teachers organizations of San Francisco and Los Angeles are citing the problem as a labor issue and hoping their union will give their critical support. Norman McClelland, President of Gay Teachers of L.A. says, "the right to work at something you've spent years training for" is imperative, and if unions do not step in, they will slowly watch the erosion of other people's right to work at their chosen profession. In March the United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA) gave their support saying, "UTLA recognizes the rights of teachers to choose from a variety of lifestyles. UTLA supports the rights of teachers to fair treatment regardless of sexual orientation and/or lifestyle..." Similar statements by the National Education Association (NEA), and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) have already caused much controversy among parents and teachers.

Gay and racial tensions are mounting as it seems those who favor desegregation also are pro-gay, while those who oppose busing, also oppose gays. Meanwhile a smaller teachers union, Professional Educators of Los Angeles (PELA), has vigorously asserted that being gay "is a sickness...triggered by glandular secretions." PELA is not a union. GTLA is soliciting members to help in the fight and particularly wants help from lesbians teachers. Teachers can help without coming out of the closet. For information call (213) 980-2070. The Gay Teachers and School Workers Coalition in San Francisco may be planning a Conference this fall, has a newsletter and can be contacted at Box 365/625 Post St. S.F., CA 94109. Phone (415) 771-9700, ext. 60.

## NO PRECEDENT SET IN GAYLORD

In the wake of the recent Supreme Court's denial to hear the case of a fired gay school teacher, activists across the country are protesting and wondering if the 'Law of the Land' will ever hear the gay question. In October the Court refused to hear the case of James Gaylord, a Tacoma high school social studies teacher who was dismissed for "immorality" in 1972. Gaylord had an unblemished thirteen year career as a teacher but was fired when he admitted he was gay to school officials.

The National Gay Task Force has cautioned against overreaction noting, "the Court's failure to rule in the Gaylord case sets no precedent of any kind and has no effect on previous state and Federal court decisions upholding the right of homosexual teachers to their jobs." Nevertheless the Task Force admits the Court's sidestepping of the issue does "add to the climate of fear and intimidation" now being directed at gays and teachers especially.

Asked when and if the Supreme Court will ever hear a gay case, law school students Bobbi Bennett and Diane Abbitt pointed out that gays will probably first have to be declared a "suspect class." Being a member of a "suspect class" entitles one to special protections, meaning the Supreme Court will take an issue out of the hands of the state courts.



Lysistrata, the second German women's rock band. (The first is called The Flying Lesbians.) Since forming in spring of 1977 their number has changed from 15 women to 8, and it is "still difficult to get a compromise." But they like each other and persist, and reject the notion of rivalry with The Flying Lesbians. A German magazine reports that the two bands use the same facilities and that "they think ONE women's band is not enough." — from an article by Marion Hayens, translated by Angela Sabellek

## European Gays On The Move

The following was received from our comrades in Germany:

"In order to prevent a situation comparable to that of present-day USA from recurring here and in order to support our American brothers and sisters in their current struggle, We, the homosexual and lesbian action groups of West Germany and West Berlin, most strongly condemn the new anti-gay campaign as being akin to Nazi ideology and pledge ourselves to fight with all available democratic means any and all attempts to deprive gay men and women of their due rights."

## DUTCH, SWEDES RALLY AGAINST BRYANT

The Mayor of Amsterdam gave the opening address to a huge Dutch crowd gathered to raise funds to support U.S. gays. The summer fundraiser netted \$40,000 which will buy an ad in *Time Magazine*. The Swedish Federation for Sexual Equality has also launched a "kingdomwide" boycott of imported Florida products claiming they "want the entire world to know of the universal struggle for Gay rights."

## ENGLISH LESBIANS SEPARATE

LONDON, ENGLAND — English lesbians have decided that they can no longer work within the Campaign for Homosexual Equality (CHE) and have left the organization to form a separate group - the National Organization for Gay Women. The announcement was made at CHE's annual conference held in Nottingham. "You are not losing us. We will be autonomous, but we will be alongside," said one prominent woman at the conference. "So, as we go, wish us good luck, good will, and goodbye in good heart." London's *Gay News* reported that a number

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# IWY, Houston Here We Come!

## Disruptions Planned: Keeping Our Heads

by Jeanne Cordova

In recent months articles have appeared in the straight press which foretell that right wingers plan to disrupt the National Women's Conference in Houston, Nov. 18-21. One Washington paper reports the KKK, John Birch Society, militant Catholics and Mormons, Schlafly's Eagle Forum and Pro-American and Bryant's anti-gay forces have formed an informal coalition and "are out to wreck" the Conference. George Higgins, Grand Dragon of the Mississippi Knights of the KKK, and a state IWY delegate promises to be in Houston organizing along the principle of his wallet identification cards which read, "The only reason you are white today is because your ancestors practiced and believed in segregation yesterday."

Since the right wingers do not have the votes to defeat the pro-feminist IWY "Plan of Action" they plan disruptive techniques such as filibustering of parliamentary procedures, demonstrations, and press conferences. Although no specific disruption plans are known it is expected they will try to sabotage feminist resolutions on the floor. Their techniques will include stalling pro-feminist votes by calling for: roll call votes, moving to re-order the agenda, intro-

Many state and issue oriented caucuses, such as N.D.W. lesbians and chicanos, have already scheduled their own press conferences.

Although the National Conference will be a far cry from the 'hearts and flowers' of our more common music festivals, thousands of lesbians will be attending to fight this unfortunate but necessary battle. Security has been a high priority for lesbian groups especially and "if we just use our heads a little more often than our emotions", says one California delegate, we will be victorious. Speaking in a Gay Community News interview regarding the anti-gay right wing rise in this country, Kathy Fire of Mother Rage says, "when people get scared they tend to run right. We're seeing over and over that people are leaving, quitting, and hiding. They're getting into their jobs, their relationships, their friends, their cheese, their spirituality, and their softball."

Speaking to those who would rather run than fight, Fire's partner, Barbara Ruth concludes the interview, "...one of the few points with which I agree with the JDL (Jewish Defense League) is their 'Never Again' philosophy. The worst thing is to walk politely to your death."



ducing time wasting or unidentifiable non-rhetorical motions such as the separation of smokers and non-smokers, calling for points of personal privilege, etc., etc. Feminists are aware of these and more complex parliamentary moves and have strategies to counter them. (See editorial note).

But at best the right wingers can only waste time because they have only 20% of the national delegation and cannot vote through so much as a coffee break. Feminist floor strategists however caution delegates against being emotionally pulled into time wasting struggles.

The enemies of Feminism in Houston also plan to make full use of the media by creating demonstrations and press conferences over real or self-perpetuated issues. Lesbians delegates should be particularly careful about being enticed into argumentative "dialogue"--especially when cameras are present. As one California IWY official put it at a recent meeting, "The media will be looking for 'Lesbians Argue With KKK'".

## Why Go To Houston?

GUEST EDITORIAL

by Barbara Ruth

The big event in the minds of us right now is the International Women's Year conference in Houston. It promises to be a showdown between the radical right, the radical left and everybody in between.

The American Nazi Party, Ku Klux Klanners, the John Birch Society and the like are totally appalled that the government is spending their tax dollars on something as insignificant as women; as a consequence they have promised to sabotage and disrupt the Houston conference.

If far-right groups which have a history of killing people in pursuit of their goals (KKK and Nazis) are there as the extremists, people who are "merely" anti-abortion and homophobic (Bryant and Schlafly

*continued on page 18*



# Houston Lesbian Directory

Lesbians who are making last minute plans to attend the IWY Conference are advised that NOW is the last minute! If you have not been able to get any concrete information about housing or Official Observer Passes, do not panic, you are one of thousands. Here are some helpful directions to help you not to get lost. Call Pokey Anderson of the National Gay Task Force in Houston, or LESBERADOS, the Houston lesbian feminist organization, IMMEDIATELY and tell them you are coming. Give your housing, childcare, and other needs. Both organizations are set up to provide all resources.

If you get to Houston on or before Thursday, Nov. 17, you may well want to attend the Lesbian Seminar sponsored by LESBERADOS on Thursday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Seminar is at the Unitarian Church at 5210 Fannin St. Women who wish to do workshops during the Seminar are invited to call LESBERADOS and make arrangements. . . LESBERADOS will also sponsor a Lesbian Caucus for non-delegates on Thursday evening. For location and time attend the Seminar or call them.

When you first arrive in Houston you may well want to check in with NGTF's Lesbian Communication Center. Go to the Albert Thomas Convention Center (conference grounds) and ask for NGTF headquarters or the Lesbian Center. Once there you will be given conference materials and information about observer passes, housing, etc. A Caucus for the Lesbian IWY delegates is also tentatively scheduled for Thursday evening. Location and time not set at press time. (For all relevant phones and addresses see, "The Houston Lesbian Directory," this page).

It is projected, though not yet confirmed, that observer passes will be rotated so that different women can sit in on various morning and afternoon sessions. Official functions of the Conference (some entertainment events and convention floor proceedings) will be limited to delegates and official observers only. However there will be round the clock workshops, entertainment and other events open to non-delegates at all times.

## LESBIAN DELEGATES

Final late word from an NGTF poll shows that 57 out front lesbians were elected delegates at their state conferences. California ranked highest with 13, followed by New York with 10. Washington D.C. elected 4, and Minnesota, Pennsylvania and Texas is sending 3 out front dykes each to Houston. Fifteen other states elected 1 or 2 additionally lesbians. Dozens of "closeted" lesbians were also elected delegates. Pro-gay resolutions were passed in 29 states, with six more including them in minority reports. Eight states were "swept" by the right wing, NGTF reports.

## Conference Schedule

The National IWY Conference will open Friday evening, Nov. 18 with an "internationalism" entertainment program for delegates. Plenary voting sessions will take place on Saturday afternoon and evening, and also on Sunday morning and afternoon. The final session Monday morning (Nov. 21) will be devoted to future plans regarding the next International Women's Conference in 1980.

Due to the size of the conference and possible disruption, security, rules and credentialing of delegates and observers will be strict. Attendees will be seated separately in the following order; IWY officials and commissioners, delegates, alternates, delegates-at-large, official observers and press. Voting procedure was not finalized by press time but it is expected resolutions will first seek an acclamation voice vote of the body. Failing this, voting may be called for by state delegations, and on controversial matters there will be an individual role call.

It is expected that passage of the official "IWY PLAN OF ACTION", which includes some of the basic issues such as passage of the ERA, abortion resolutions, media image, childcare centers, etc., may be called for in a vote of acclamation to save time. Lesbianism, along with resolutions regarding older women and minority rights, are strong minority planks and are expected to be voted on by state delegations or individual vote. Lesbianism and to a lesser extent abortion rights, are expected to be the two most controversial issues in Houston. According to Cecilia Preciado-Burciaga, California IWY Commis-

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### LESBERADOS

1310 Welch Street  
Houston, TX 77006  
(713) 524-0342

NGTF/Pokey Anderson  
c/o Point Blank Times  
P.O. Box 14643  
Houston, TX 77021

NGTF, in New York  
80 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10011  
(212) 741-1010

IWY FREEDOM RIDE  
(Los Angeles)  
2616 Euclid Avenue, No. B  
Santa Monica, CA 90405  
(213) 396-1438

IWY SUPPORT COALITION  
(California)  
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## WHY GO TO HOUSTON?

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forces) appear as the moderates. In Mississippi, where Nazi Party members were elected as delegates, the IWY State Conference actually voted to rescind female suffrage.

Many women have pointed out that the conference has no real power. It will produce "resolutions" which may be used by the administration in making policy. Also, by putting a lot of money and press coverage into it, IWY has had and can continue to have a lot of propaganda value for America's image abroad: see how well we treat "our" women.

(The State Department has already shown its disrespect for the idea of representational democracy as practiced by women by appointing 370 "at large" delegates. After making a statistical analysis of the elected delegates, the State Department decided to appoint 370 white women to join the ranks - because "Caucasians" were underrepresented".) (\*ed. note older, rich, white women)

And of course the conference will be run by Robert's Rules of Order, a form many feminists have abandoned as being antithetical to the idea and goal of sisterhood.

For the past four months I have been talking to women across the country about Houston. For all the reasons listed above, and more, many lesbians have said that they think the whole conference is a waste of time.

I, too, feel that the conference is co-opted and male. Yet I still believe that it is important for radicals, lesbians, feminists, to make a presence at Houston. It has become an arena, a place for guerrilla theatre and demonstrations of conscience.

In the same way that the Klan is there representing the far right, it is important for us to be there as the far left. If we simply don't go, women whose primary concerns are reproductive freedom and the passage of the ERA will be, by default, cast in the role of women's libbers, the radical fringe. Our presence gives them more room to maneuver and also, by comparison, makes them more acceptable to the administration and the press.

In addition to all the above, Houston will be a place to see all sorts of lesbians from all sorts of communities, share ideas and energies, and strengthen the women's network being built on this continent. There will be workshops, tables representing women's stores from across the country, poetry, music, and an alternative feminist conference put on by GrassRoots, a group from New York. I wouldn't miss it for the world.

## HOUSTON LESBIAN DIRECTORY

*continued from page 17*

sioner, the tremendous support of lesbianism shown by the New York and California state conferences helped put the gay issue in a very strong position.

Actual resolutions passed at state conferences will not appear on the Houston agenda as dozens of them were redundant. Instead official IWY "Plan of Action" will be voted upon. This Plan was put together by the Federal IWY Commissioners, and is a prioritized synthesis of the state resolutions.



## Let Them Eat Teabags

Bryant, Briggs, Shlafly, and other right-wing Christian fundamentalists are constantly talking about how the "taxpayer's" money is being used to destroy the American Family, to attack the lifestyle of the "normal majority", and to undermine "our traditional institutions" and bring about the collapse of "our civilization." Is that true? Are they the only taxpayers? Have their tax dollars been used to subsidize us -- or isn't the case just the opposite: That gays have been used as serfs to subsidize heterosexual institutions which have oppressed us?

What about the tax exemptions granted to Christian Churches and church property? We pay for the government services that they receive (national defense, police protection, judicial services, public highways and streets, flood control and water resources, you name it,) while they teach that we are an abomination and should be put to death. ("If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them." Leviticus 20:13.) Why should

we be taxed to subsidize non-taxpaying institutions which are inimical to our interests and a threat to our lives?

The time has come to protest LOUDLY! The politicians who are oppressing us are supported by our gay tax dollars; we need to withdraw our support! As a first step in a Gay Tax Protest, we invite you to participate in a "Boston Tea Party" styled after the methods of tax protester Vivian Kellems: mail a tea bag to your representatives in the State Legislature and in Congress and to other public servants. Write a letter to indicate you are protesting discriminatory treatment of gay taxpayers. Perhaps attach a lavender label or a pink triangle to the string of your tea bag. Sign your name if you can--but send a tea bag (preferably orange pekoe) even if you are in the closet and have to do it anonymously. The point is to get enough tea bags in to the politicians to make them worry about the revenue and votes they are going to lose if their oppression of gays continues! For further information, call Rosalie Nichols at (408) 289-1088.

## KKK Calls For Death of Gays

HOUSTON — A tape-recorded telephone message from a Ku Klux Klan bookstore in Pasadena, California, urges the execution of all homosexuals. The message, which is available by calling (703) 472-4451 in Pasadena, is also available at a KKK bookstore in the Houston area, according to *The Star*, the Houston gay newspaper. It is not known whether the call for the execution of gay people is official KKK policy. However, KKK members have offered their services to protect anti-gay singer Anita Bryant at public appearances and recently did so at a Huntington, West Virginia, rally.

The phone message states that "The Ku Klux Klan is not embarrassed to admit that we endorse and seek the execution of all homosexuals.

"While many church people are duped by their brain-washed pink-panty preachers into believing that we should merely pray for the homosexuals, we find that we must endorse and support the law of God, which calls for the death penalty for homosexuals.

## Noble Will Step Out

According to an L.A. Times, Oct. 24 report Elaine Noble will step out of the June 1978 re-elections in Massachusetts. In the Sept./Oct. issue we announced that Noble was facing a tough run off with pro-gay Representative Barney Frank, and that she herself announced she may step out of the race to head an expected anti-gay referendum campaign in her state next year. In the wake of the bill's failure, (it was defeated in the Massachusetts House in mid October,) The defeat came after a three day House fight which ended in a 129-93 defeat. The acrimonious fight, called one of the worst in the Mass. House, was championed by Noble, Frank and others.

Noble's aide Carla Brewington announced Noble is retiring because her father is ill. It is not known what her father, a retired coal miner, is suffering from.

"The Ku Klux Klan does not have to rely on the feelings or thoughts of man, nor do we need to experience a dialogue with some Jewish psychiatrist or rabbi who is mentally warped anyway. We rely upon the age-proven and reliable law of God.

"The law on homosexuality states: 'That if a man also lie with mankind as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination, and shall be put to death' (Leviticus 20:13).

An Arkansas-based "White Christian" newspaper called *The Torch* has also editorially urged the gassing of gay people. The editorial, which is published as part of an eight-page mimeographed July issue devoted to homosexuality, is virtually identical to a recorded phone message at the Ku Klux Klan Bookstore. (GCN).

(Editorial Note: "White Christian" are euphemisms for both NAZI Party and KKK operations).





# short currents

## COORS GETS CONCERNED---ABOUT PROFITS

The ongoing boycott of Coors Beer is making a sizeable dent in the Coors company's profits. Coors has sent five representatives out into the gay community in Los Angeles and 15 other cities to talk to gays. Now that their profits have sunk 20% overall and nearly 100% in the gay community, where bars are just not ordering it anymore, the Coors company wants to talk.

## ERA MAY BE EXTENDED

On Oct. 12, the majority of Congresswomen met with representatives of 60 national women's organizations and presidential aide Midge Costanza and unanimously approved a plan to extend the deadline for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. A bill to this effect has been introduced by Elizabeth Holtzman (D-NY) and Margaret Heckler (R-MA) and has the sponsorship of 15 of the 18 Congresswomen, as well as Carter, major congressional leaders and Tip O'Neill, Speaker of the House. The bill would extend the deadline for ratification for seven years (until March 1986). It is not known at this time whether a simple

majority vote, or a 2/3 vote, is needed to pass this legislation.

Until now, IRS policy has been to refuse such status to gay groups unless the application included a disclaimer stating that homosexuality is "a sickness, disturbance or diseased pathology."

The turn-about came last September when the IRS granted full tax-exempt status (without the disclaimer) to the Fund For Human Dignity, and NGTF affiliate in New York. This breakthrough means that other qualified gay organizations may now obtain the much sought after tax status.

## HISPANIC WOMEN'S DIRECTORY

A new national directory devoted exclusively to the Hispanic woman, edited by San Francisco activist Elba Iris Montes, will give complete reference information on Hispanic business, professional and involved women throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. Applications for inclusion in the directory may be obtained by writing to Publishing Associates, Box 1054, Pacifica, CA 94044. The directory is slated for publication in early 1978.

## IRS REVERSES ANTI-GAY POLICY

(--information from *The Advocate*)

In a major policy revision, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has opened the door for gay educational and charitable organizations to receive full tax-exempt status without having to apologize for homosexuality.

### SEXUAL FANTASY SURVEY

If you are a lesbian and ever had sexual fantasies, or wondered about sexual fantasies, or wanted to hear other lesbians' fantasies, or just want a good lesbian book to read, then I need your help. I am a lesbian, writing a totally lesbian sexual fantasy book, and wanting lesbians' input. All replies are of course anonymous.

Please Circle the appropriate answers below and return to:  
LINDA HAMILTON PO BOX 5120 SANTA MONICA, CA. 90405

- 1) I have sexual fantasies:  
more than 1/day      1/week  
1/day      less than 1/week
- 2) I fantasize:  
during masturbation  
when making love  
other \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) I fantasize about:  
myself only      someone I know  
imaginary persons      other \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) My fantasies make me feel:  
excited      guilty  
so/so      other \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) I tell my fantasies to:  
no one      my friend(s)  
my lover(s)      other \_\_\_\_\_
- and they react:  
supportive/excited      scared  
negative      other \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) I act out my fantasies with:  
no one      my lover(s)  
myself only      other \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) Clearly, and with as much detail as possible, describe your sexual fantasies. If you have several fantasies, pick your three "favorites". (Use separate sheet of paper.)

-----cut out and mail-----

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WINTER '76-'77: Beautiful 4 color poster and magazinelette.

FUTURE ISSUES SPRING '77 *Ethnic Dykes*, copy deadline Feb. 1st. SUMMER '77 *Animals*, copy deadline May 1st.



## WALK-A-THON NETS \$155,000 For ERA

The Walk For Equality, sponsored by NOW and held on August 26 was "the most successful National NOW Action ever called," according to Shelly Mandell, L.A. Coordinator. The march drew thousands in most major U.S. cities and netted \$155,000. The Los Angeles march, which posted the highest dollar amount, (\$15,000) was spurred on by actress Jean Stapleton and entertainer Lily Tomlin who marched and ensured excellent media coverage. Tomlin, who brought in \$100 per mile pledges, walked the full 12 mile route.

In related legislative news, the City Council of Eugene, Oregon will vote on a gay employment rights ordinance in early November. The ordinance is given a 50-50 chance of passage.



**POETS!** You may now receive the encouragement and feedback you need. Touchstone, a service for poets, now will give you 1) analysis of your poems' content, style and technique, 2) information on publishing and 3) at least three possible markets specific to your work. Mail your work to Touchstone, Robin Lou-Trusty Hiershe, P.O. Box 06341, Portland Oregon, 97206. There will be a minimum charge of \$3.00 with a sliding scale fee based on your income.

**MUSIC REVIEWER** wanted to write reviews of new lesbian/feminist albums, songbooks, etc. for Lesbian Tide. You get a free album, plus \$5. Call us at 839-7254.

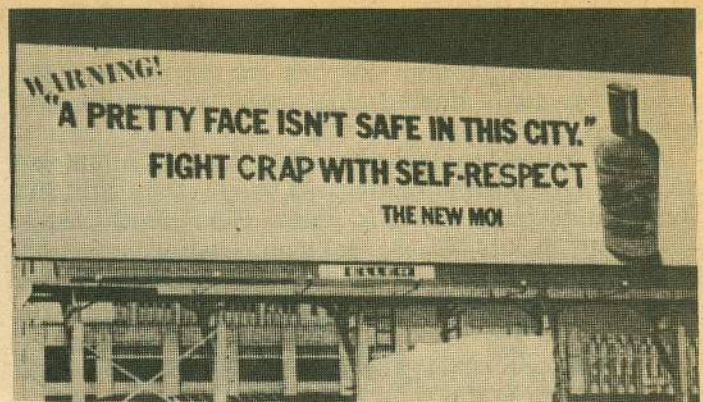
"**THE MUSIC AND COMEDY** of Sue Fink and Joelyn Grippo", a benefit concert for the IWY Support Coalition, will be held Saturday, Nov. 12, 8 p.m. at Frost Auditorium, 4401 Elenda, Culver City. Tickets are \$3.50. For information and child care call 792-9947.

**PARENTS** and Friends of Gays needs parents and friends to help fight the Briggs Initiative. Call 472-8952 or write P.O. Box 24528, L.A., CA 90024.

**FAIR:** Womonspace is having another fair! Dec. 11, 10 to 4, in the parking lot at 237 Hill Street in Santa Monica. Come and share poetry, song, arts and crafts, and skill demonstrations. Artisans and performers please pre-register by calling Womonspace at 399-9813 (afternoons). Women are also needed to help produce the fair.

**INSTRUCTOR** for advanced course in feminist theory spring quarter, 1978 (March 30 - June 15). Minimum qualifications: advancement to candidacy. Prefer assistant or associate professor. Application deadline: Jan. 15. For more information, write Dr. Gloria Bowles, Women's Studies, 301 Campbell Hall, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720.

**TUNE-UPS** done by lesbian feminist mechanic. \$15 to \$20, plus parts. Call Pam 396-4915.



Before feminist guerillas got hold of this sign it read, "Warning: A Pretty Face Isn't Safe In This City Fight Back With Self-Defense. The New Moisturizer." Angered by the latest Max Factor insult, San Franciscan sisters joined dozens of ad hoc exterior decorators in major U.S. cities in giving this billboard a feminist face lift. "The New Moi" is French for "the new me."  
--Photo from Plexus

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## The Performing Woman

A biannual directory of women musicians throughout the United States is now being formulated. For more information write:

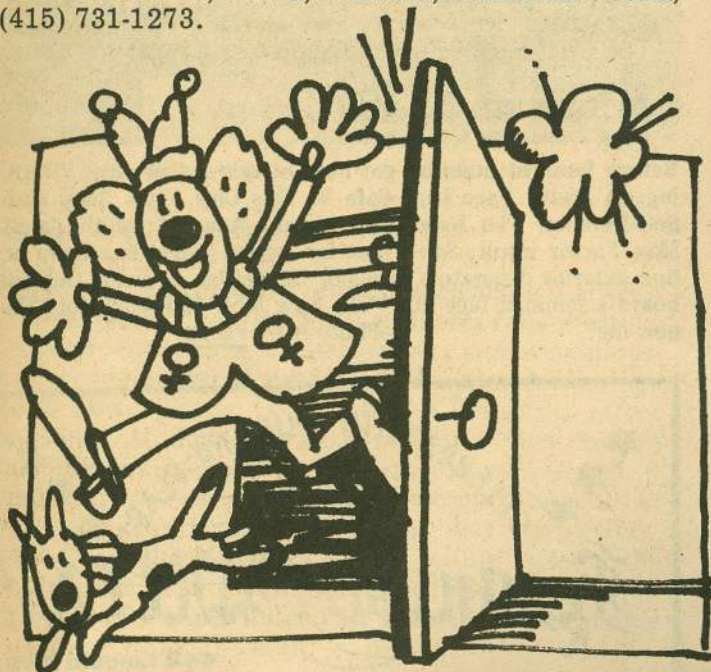
THE PERFORMING WOMAN  
26910 Grand View Avenue  
Hayward, California 94542



## CLOWNS COME OUT

Big Time Film Productions has started research and fundraising for a docu-drama about women comedien-nes and clowns.

All interested comedien-nes and clowns, donors and fundraisers, please contact: Cathy Zheutlin and Denise Bostrom, c/o Big Time Film Productions, 5537 Claremont, No. 3, Oakland, California 94618, (415) 731-1273.



## SAVE OUR CHILDREN BANKRUPT?

The organization which led the campaign against our human rights in Dade County, SAVE OUR CHILDREN FROM HOMOSEXUALITY, needs both a new name and new money if it is to survive. Spokesman Mike Thompson recently admitted to the UPI bureau in Miami that two lawsuits have left its treasury empty and placed it under a court order to change its name to something other than SAVE OUR CHILDREN FROM HOMOSEXUALITY, Inc. Spokesperson Thompson also criticized singer Anita Bryant. He said that unless she comes to the groups aid with money and support, the group may disband. He admitted, "There is a limit to just how much I can do on this."

Attorney Robert Brake of S.O.C., said the group has had to spend more than \$10,000 defending two lawsuits. The first was the name change lawsuit of "SAVE OUR CHILDREN" of Westport, Conn. The second was the San Francisco suit claiming damages as a result of the murder of a gay brother in that city. "We've exhausted our treasury on these suits", Blake admitted. And Thompson added that for lack of funds, he has been forced to decline invitations to take part in "public" debates on the gay-rights issue. Gay brothers and gay sisters are encouraged to bring civil liberties damage suits against SAVE OUR CHILDREN FROM HOMOSEXUALITY Inc., wherever and whenever possible.

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MUSIC BY JOY SOUND



## YOUNG LESBIANS, WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

A book on gay experience to meet the needs of young lesbians and gay men is being prepared by Frances Hanckel and John Cunningham, activists and members of the American Library Association Gay Task Force. They would appreciate receiving reminiscences, anecdotes or comments about what it means to be a gay adolescent. Any material can be sent to them at P.O. Box 2383, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

## WEST COAST WOMEN'S VIDEO FESTIVAL

The First Annual West Coast Women's Video Festival is being held on November 18-20, 1977 in Studio One at San Francisco State University.

Sponsoring the event is the Women's Communication Coalition, along with the San Francisco Women's Centers. The Coalition is presenting an original juried showing of tapes done by women on the West Coast. There will be five different programs shown over a three-day period. Each program is designed to present a mixture of humorous, poignant, and political material so that the viewer can get a multi-level perspective of women's lives. Four separate viewing environments are being designed with multi-monitor set-ups to allow the viewer to watch the tapes in several unique areas. Admission for the festival will be \$2.00 general and \$1.50 for students and senior citizens. Childcare will be provided for each show.

For further information, call: in San Francisco, (415) 648-6456; in the East Bay (415) 526-3954; in Marin County (415) 488-4963.

## DADE COUNTY, AN EXPENSIVE DEFEAT

Only in democratic America do you spend a third of a million dollars to keep your basic constitutional rights -- and lose!

In a recent budget breakdown, the Dade County Coalition for Human Rights reports that it received \$379,355 and spent \$371,434 in the long unsuccessful fight to keep their gay rights ordinance. For the

period covering November 1, 1976 to July 12, 1977 the organization spent: \$129,439 on advertising, \$38,000 to use the postal system, \$34,000 in consultant fees, \$29,029 to keep the printers of Dade County in business, \$27,478 for a phone bank, \$26,215 in public relations designed to win us votes, \$19,000 seed money to finance fundraisers, \$18,443 to Ma Bell and her accessories, \$16,375 for security, and about another \$31,000 for campaign headquarters, salaries, legal work, and election day expenses.

The Coalition reports a balance of \$7,921.


## SAVE OUR KIDS LOSES CUSTODY

A Denver post-Dade County group, The June 7th Committee, moved quickly to counter anti-gay activities in Colorado. They incorporated the names "Save Our Children" and Save Our Christian Kids" to prevent anti-gay groups from using them and benefiting from the free publicity that would result.

## SUPREME COURT WILL HEAR WANROW

Spokane Superior Court Judge William H. Williams has stayed the trial of all charges against Yvonne Wanrow, Colville Indian, pending the Washington Supreme Court decision of the constitutionality of her felony murder charge. Judge Williams' Sept. 29th decision means there will be no separate trial on the assault charges not included in the review of the felony murder charge by the Washington Supreme Court.

On September 22nd, before Washington Supreme Court attorney for Wanrow, Liz Schneider, of the Center for Constitutional Rights has argued that, by charging Wanrow with felony murder based on the predicate felony of assault with a deadly weapon, that the state of Washington was relieved of the burden of proving that Yvonne Wanrow had intended to kill William Wesler, a known child molester who she believed was breaking into the house where she was staying. The Supreme Court will hear the case early in 1978.



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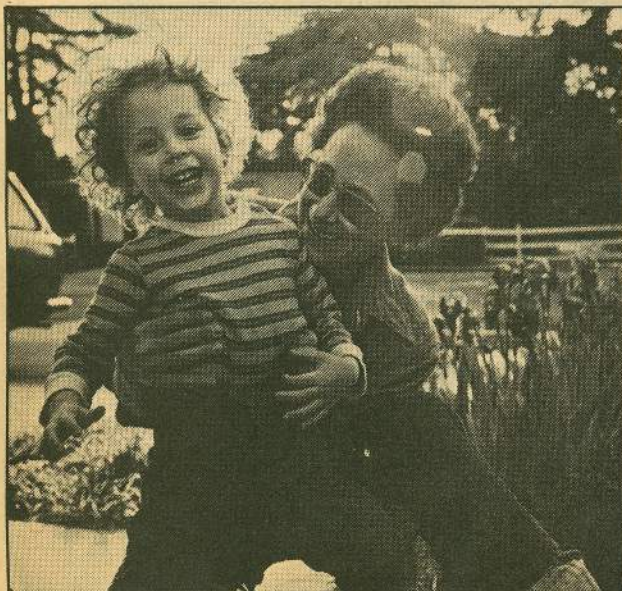
## Updates On Custody

### ACTIVISM ANGERS JUDGE

A San Francisco lesbian mother has lost custody of her two children. After two exhausting court hearings, the brutal removal of her youngest child without warning, betrayal by her family, and harsh courtroom probings into the most intimate details of her life, Jeanne Jullion awaits her third and final courtroom confrontation, scheduled for late fall. To the anger of the judge who presided over her case, she has moved from isolation to organizing with the help of her attorney and a defense committee. Their efforts at publicizing her plight have produced a broadly based support group that includes politicians, unions, churches and gay organizations. Despite threats by the judge to place her in contempt of court for going to the public on the issue of her lesbianism, Jeanne continues to make herself available to the media and gay rights organizations. The case is solely based on Jeanne's lesbianism. Her court costs are expected to exceed \$15,000. The Jeanne Jullion Defense Fund can be contacted c/o PO Box 88447, Oakland, CA 94662.

### VERMONT WIN

The Vermont custody case (Vol III, Iss 1) of a lesbian mother and her child who are part of a collective of eight lesbians and three kids, has been settled out of court, with the mother keeping custody. Final papers were signed in late August. LDF raised the needed \$2500 for back bills at the Michigan Music Festival. The Lesbian Defense Fund will continue to help lesbian mothers with custody cases. For info, write: LDF, P.O. Box 4, Essex Junction, VT 05452.



24 • Lesbian Tide

## Mom De Plume

by S. Diane Bogus

Dear Mama,

I realize that this letter-writing-business is silly, especially since we haven't been in touch for all these years. I really don't expect an answer, but who's a lesbian supposed to talk to if not her mother?

She talks to her lover, or mate, of course, but what I have to say involves my mate, and well, frankly, I wouldn't want to bring it up and have her misunderstand. What I have to say involves you, too, so let me explain.

When I was a child, I know you couldn't have helped but know how much I adored you.

Who would have thought that, out of love, I consciously copied everything you did; unlike some little girls, I did not thoughtlessly act like my mother. I did so with a self-indulging awareness, and I loved every zeroxed minute of it. I learned your walk, talk, gestures and nurturing laughter. At that time, Mama, had you swung from bars, I would to this day be hopelessly, imitatively, hung up.

But, I think the major expression of my "daughter-see, daughter-do" love act lay in how carefully I noted your every motherly task. From counseling-discipline to cooking, and diaper changing, I grokked it all.

My doll children were chastized, encouraged, and dressed, doted upon, spanked and prayed for. Like a mirror-sponge, I saw and soaked in all that you were, and today I represent the greater part of you. Yet, while I am fully the woman you were, I'm nobody's mother.

I hold three mothering positions, yet I'm nobody's mother who calls me mother.

I spend daily chunks of my time with children, who for all purposes intended, are mine. I often stop

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*"I know of no special problems that the Lesbian mother has except that she is constantly oppressed by the attitudes of our society, and has to deal with that with her children."*

- BERNICE AUGENBRAUN, M.S.W., FROM THE FILM



the flow of an explanation to have Arnold button his shirt. I may even take Rachel aside to remind her of the importance of good personal hygiene, but come three o'clock and the sound of the last class bell, my "children" say "goodbye, Teacher," — not mother.

Likewise, I am mother-of-a-kind to children who like this letter, were not procreated, but simply created. They are the word products of this my literary wedlock. Nevertheless, I put each of these prosaic babies up for public adoption, whereupon I am read and called, not mother, but writer.

There are god-mothers, where mothers may be; there are foster mothers where mothers cannot be, and there are step-mothers where mothers have been, but where there are two parents of the same sex nurturing and rearing one or the other's children, only one of them can conceptually be called mother, while the other is none of the above.

My complaint is that I hold the unnamed parental place within Barbara's and my family unit. Because I don't want her to feel that I want to usurp her biological first place, or make her think that I wish I had my own children or cause her to think that I am ungrateful for the total sharing of her children, I have not brought the issue to her. What's more, Mama, other than you, there are very few people who will understand what I am saying. For while I love children, in deference to my writing career, I chose not to have any of my own. Yet with all of your motherness embedded within me, to not have entered a child-blessed relationship would have been to alienate a part of myself from myself. It would have been, more seriously, a denial of my love for you, and that love remains ever deep.

So here I reside: Barbara, me, and our two children. When she is unable or too tired, I deign to fill out our kids' school forms which inevitably have heterosexual blanks that disallow any possibility other than the appropriated "mother," "father," or "guardian." And try as I might, I cannot stifle the anger that I feel

toward a definitionless society which makes me unavoidably neither.

Or, upon taking the kids on an outing, where we invariably encounter new acquaintances, there's always that someone, who, having given the kids a praise-worthy once-over, asks "now, which one of you is the mother of these fine looking youngsters?"

What am I to do, Mama, when I'm living a sane, yet socially unincorporated life-style?

Maybe, Mama, your unexpected death caused me to doubly cherish you, caused me to seal your essence and image tightly within me, made me forever a woman of like feather, a "mom de plume."

Can this also serve as the name for a second lady parent?



S. Diane Bogus is the author of 2 poetry volumes, *Woman in the Moon* and *I'm Off to See the Goddamn Wizard, Alright!* She has been widely published in magazines, newspapers and poetry anthologies.

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## Was Amelia's Death Covered Up?

A former California newspaper editor who investigated the strange disappearance of Amelia Earhart is calling for U.S. Intelligence agencies to disclose the true facts behind her death. Amelia, according to U.S. government reports on her death, was lost at sea in the mid-Pacific in 1937 while flying on a well-publicized first round-the-world flight. A number of researchers and reporters have alleged that Amelia was not lost at sea, but in fact, became a Japanese prisoner-of-war. Some claim she is alive today. Former newspaper editor Ross Game says that he, and another veteran CBS reporter, conducted an extensive investigation into the strange death of Amelia—an investigation which led to the Pentagon and other Washington intelligence agencies. Game claims Amelia and her navigator were, in fact, forced down near the Marshall Islands, and imprisoned by the Japanese, and the Amelia later died of dysentery. Game says that the navigator was shot shortly after Amelia's death, and they were placed in a common unmarked grave. The newspaperman, writing in the Melbourne Herald, says that oddly enough, when the war was over, U.S. Intelligence agents removed the bodies of the two lost fliers and secretly transferred the fliers' remains to undisclosed graves, presumably in the U.S. Game has called on the U.S. government to reveal what it really knows about Amelia's first round-the-world flight and how it ended in her death.

(--Info from Her Say via  
Lesbian Connection)

ed note: The Lesbian Tide wonders why it's always men looking for the truth about Amelia. Maybe if a woman looks the truth will be found!



Did the C.I. A. cover up Earhart's death because they sent her on a covert spying mission? --photo from Lesbian Lives

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## Sparring With The System

"Cat" (Cathy) Davis, 24 year old professional boxer and veteran of 13 k.o.'s, is now facing her toughest battle. She is challenging the New York State Athletic Commission's rule prohibiting women from boxing in New York. The dispute arose after Cat was nearly arrested by New York police for performing in an outdoor exhibition for teenagers. She is one of forty ranked women boxers competing in over twenty states, and now holds the title of national lightweight champion.

Cat's story is now being documented on film. The New Contenders, a 16 mm, 26 minute color documentary, scheduled for release in the near future, is produced and directed by award-winning filmmaker, Jane Warrenbrand. The New Contenders focuses on Cat's and other sportswomen's challenge of attitudes and laws which prevent them from participating in athletic competition on a professional level. The film is intended to be the first in a series of films about five women "with the strength, determination and desire to win."

## Equal Pay For Equal Play

As late as 1974, only 60 schools subsidized women athletes. This year, according to a WomenSports magazine survey, more than 10,000 women at 464 institutions will receive more than \$7 million in scholarship help. The grants range from \$45 to \$6,700 and their recipients will compete in everything from riflery to rodeo, fencing to lacrosse.

New Federal rules forced many of the schools to increase women's sports scholarships. Based on Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, the regulations require that equal proportions of men and women playing a varsity sport receive grants. However, some schools complain that female "jocks" are harder to recruit.

The colleges do find, however, that many female athletes bring unusually strong academic records. Women now receive athletic scholarships from large state universities, small private colleges and intellectual havens alike.

--Lesbian News

## JANUS SOUTH

JANUS SOUTH, a growth Center for Women, offers a private rustic setting for workshops and retreats. For more information write:

Sandie Harris  
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New Woman

MARIE PAGE runs a pool hall that is open to women only. "There are a lot of top-notch female pool players, and others who would like to learn," say Ms. Page, "but women don't like to be cooped up in smokey rooms, listen to a lot of foul language, and have to fight off drunks while concentrating on a shot." Page runs Marie's Golden Cue in Chicago, IL, as well as the only all women pool league in the city.

## Women Making Tracks

A recent article in *WomenSports* magazine argues that social rather than biological factors have limited the performances of women athletes, and predicts that women's running and swimming times will eventually equal those of men. Analyzing data on female and male track and swimming events, *WomenSports* found that the gap has narrowed considerably in the past four decades. Both women and men have improved considerably over the years because of improved nutrition, more efficient and effective training methods and the increased availability of facilities, but the fact that women have improved faster indicates that "the biological differences between women and men may be much less significant in sports than has always been assumed."

--The Spokeswoman



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## Will The Real Lesbians Please Lie Down?

by Becky Bailin

*The Joy of Lesbian Sex*, by Dr. Emily L. Sisley and Bertha Harris, Crown Publishers, \$12.95

On my way to the bedroom to study *Joy*, I wondered what should be expected from the ultimate sex manual. I think it should have lots of good ideas and also be erotic in itself. When one masturbates to a book one finds they can one-handedly thumb to erotic sections as if by magic. Alas, I found them too few, too short and too far between.

Secondly, and probably most importantly, a sex manual should make women feel we're OK, it should not disapprove or make us ashamed or uptight. It is in this area that I find *Joy* sexist and thoroughly offensive. Pictured in these pages are thin, white, young, pimple-less, body-hairless women with high, round breasts. Lest we blame the illustrators, (one of whom is a man), the text refers to being "proud of your flat stomach", and wearing "skin tight pants that show your prominent hip bones and, if you're lucky, your high, slender ass. . ." How are fat, older, non-white, other than traditionally perfect women (and who among us is that though we've mutilated ourselves trying) to feel about ourselves if in a book of Lesbian aesthetic we find ourselves derided or at best invisible? ("Handicapped" Lesbians are given a good little paragraph in the text, though.)

Some advice has a "shame on you" tone. "... a day's collection of sweet, natural vaginal secretions and less-than-fresh panties can render any woman's crotch far from kissable". The sarcasm is not appreciated. At best this serves to make women question the aesthetics of natural functions and smells (we get plenty of that on TV, thanks) and at worst sends them into a panicked grope for the FDS, a product I'd prefer not to eat. Besides, one day's secretions? I'm in trouble.

---

### Is this the orgasm Olympics? Are we competing? With whom?

---

Typical of the book's "politics" is a sort of generalized boosterism that seems to have been directed at non-Lesbian eyes.

"While Lesbians certainly have their share of problems, the ability to come more than once--or enjoying several waves of orgasm rather than once--is certainly not among them"

Are we competing? With whom? Is this the orgasm olympics? I'm not sure exactly what multiple orgasm is, let alone being "certainly" multi-orgasmic. What constitutes orgasm? Can you have half? How many in how long qualifies? Should I be horrified by my naivete? Is this just another hype to make women feel inadequate? Most "certainly" to the point--should any sex book make me doubt my experience like this? My favorite passage is the following:

To be a man is to feel a limitation on energy. To be a man means to feel that life is a question of either/or: there is either work or play, either intellectual or sexual opportunity. One can either make love or make war. . . To be a woman though is to have seemingly limitless energy. She greets the dawn, she reproduces, feeds, nurtures, clothes; she scrubs the floor; she becomes a captain of industry--or hits the streets to demand the chance to become one"

---

### Joy celebrates the shit out of our lifestyle, but is it the real us?

---

Any working woman will attest to the excruciating limits on energy, and I seriously question aspirations to captain industry. And the rabid late sleeper in me shrieks at the idea of greeting any dawn that didn't follow some hard partying. These cheerleaderesque generalizations either tell us what we know or tell us we should be what we're not.

*Joy* assuredly celebrates the shit out of our lifestyle, but is it the real us? Do Lesbian relationships really have a better "track record" than straights? On whose track are we running? It celebrates our sexuality from gentle to tough, from hand-kissing to bondage, from in-depth toe action to hair stroking. It has excellent sections on civil rights and CR. Sometimes the author's analysis hits thoughtfully, sensibly and perceptively. Most of the time it does not.

In *Joy* we find that our Lesbianism is the greatest, we are super-women in fact. Provided we're young, white, thin and blonde, our armpit odor is passable or chemical, and we rinse our cunts plenty. As for masturbating to it, it brought on orgasm. Once.

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DR. EMILY L. SISLEY  
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BERTHA HARRIS

#### THE AUTHORS

EMILY SISLEY, Ph.D. (Clinical Psychology), is Director, Day Center, Department of Psychiatry, Roosevelt Hospital.

BERTHA HARRIS, Assistant Professor of Women's Studies, College of Staten Island, has published four books in the area of Women's Studies.

#### THE ILLUSTRATORS

CHARLES RAYMOND, one of the illustrators of The Joy of Sex, exhibits regularly in Britain and most recently at the Tryon Gallery.

PATRICIA FAULKNER has had four one-woman shows and has exhibited at the Royal Academy for the last nine years.

YVONNE GILBERT lectures at Birmingham College of Art on dress design and its history. Her intricate illustrations are in constant demand from publishers in Britain and abroad.

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# "Dragging" Through The Years

by Pat Califia

*No Lies, No More, Not Now*, by dpat Mattie

Coming out is a rite of passage that has no parallel in the het world. It may be a long, drawn-out process involving a lot of soulsearching, perhaps taking several years. It may happen in a flash when somebody opens a bedroom door at the wrong (or right) moment. But it is something all lesbians have in common - a transition usually made in isolation that is a necessary prerequisite to entering a life where companionship and intimacy with other women are possible. It can be hard now to remember how hard it was to make the choice to come out, and how lonely it could be.



dpat Mattie's book, "*No Lies, No More, Not Now*," documents what it was like for her to cross the line

into No Man's land. Three cover photos show her in the stages of that epiphany - as a baby (she says in the introduction, "i've known i was a lesbian since i was 2 minutes old and that nurse held me in her arms and said, 'there, there, honey, it's all right'"), as the major's wife ("i was 24... and running around essentially in drag") and at 35, sprawled comfortably on the grass, dressed in casual dyke attire, grinning proudly. The eye keeps bouncing from the woman in brocade evening gown and white gloves to the woman in felt hat, jacket, boots and jeans. How can they be the same person? If they are, in fact, the same woman, how many of those ladies who run around "essentially in drag" have another woman, a lesbian, trapped inside of them? The poems in "*No Lies, No More, Not Now*" affirm vigorously that the lesbian can come out, and win more in the process than she loses.

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BOOKS BY \* FOR WOMEN

## PAGE ONE

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Portrait of a Dyke Before and After Feminism. dpatt mattie, author.

dpatt Mattie's poems speak of the richness of loving another woman. Her love poems to straight friends, lovers lost and lovers found, are painful as well as glad. They are the poems of a survivor, a woman who lives through dark times to grow and move and change. There is a piece about being accosted by hostile teenagers on her way home that brings up the hackles of any woman who has been harassed on the street. There is a poem about coming out to her son. All of them are honest, moving and sound just right when read aloud.

The eight poems at the end of the book will probably become the favorites for recitation. If you've ever wanted something erotic you could share with a lover or lovers, or something nice to turn yourself on, these poems are highly recommended. ODE TO MY CROTCH is part of this group.



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# Face To Face With Meg

by Linda Hamilton

*Face the Music*, by Meg Christian, Olivia Records, \$6  
Meg Christian's second album, *Face the Music*, is amazing, but then if you've heard her first album, then *I Know You Know*. Her musical creativity in making her guitar sound like a waterfall in "The Rock Will Wear Away" and like her cat in "Nipper" is incredible.

For those of us with looksist tendencies who want to judge an album by its cover, Sue Talbot's colorful batik cover design and Meg's power-in-music pose holding her guitar and fist high should do it. The Spanish translation is a welcome addition to the text, and there is an impressive list of woman-credits. There are no male-written songs as there were on *I Know You Know*.

And the music is definitely powerful-ranging from the strength of the sing-a-long choruses of "The Rock Will Wear Away" and "The Road I Took To You" and "Where Do We Go From Here", to the triumph of herstory-regained in "Rosalind" and "Mountain Song", to the spirit of women-loving-women in "Change" and "Sweet Darlin' Woman".

As feminists, we not only recognize our own oppression but become acutely aware of how oppression can work through us. "Rosalind" is a story of the "subtle and complex ways racism works" in a relationship, and "the fear at being queer" that can eventually end it. In "Rainbow", many of us can relate to the frustrating struggle of the musician to convey her feminist politics.

"And I am so sad  
And I am so afraid  
For those who cannot hear  
The music you have made."

The serious problem of the lesbian's negative image is treated with an excellent sense of lesbian-feminist humor in Sue Fink and Joelyn Grippo's *Leaping*. As I listen to Meg, I remember the first time I heard the



Photo by Ellen Shub

Meg tells straight women, "Don't Look In Your Closets, Watch Out, Better Beware! Here Come the Leaping Lesbians," as she sings the satirical melodrama written by Sue Fink and Joelyn Grippo.

song. Sue and Joelyn explained that when they told a woman friend that they were lesbians, she made it a habit to sit by an open front door in case she needed a speedy exit. Homophobic fears of lesbian attack are beautifully parodied in the lyrics and the villainous, melodramatic music. And Sue's performance was backed by several hilarious "Dykettes" dancing like the Supremes and displaying their "icy fingers feeling, stealing". This exaggerated image of lesbians hiding in closets and "slipping up behind you" comes across as a comic relief allowing us the chance to laugh at an otherwise painful issue.

As many of us are discovering, it's the power in ourselves and our lesbian lives that we hear in women's music and that makes us enthusiastically respect our artists. *Face the Music* is a celebration of this marvelous woman energy that we all share with one another. It's a joy to face this music.



## Meg's 2nd album! FACE THE MUSIC

Ask for this album at your local feminist store or record store, or write Olivia Records, Box 70237, Los Angeles CA 90070.



# community focus

## GAY FLOAT IN CHRISTMAS PARADE

The Christopher Street West Association will be sponsoring a float in the Santa Claus Lane Parade, set for November 27, 1977.

This is the first time that a Gay organization has entered this event. The float, delivering holiday greetings from the Southern California Gay Community, will be a "Human Rights Train", with passengers representing all sectors of humanity: Gays, Women, Blacks, Chicanos, Senior Citizens, and other oppressed groups. The "Human Rights Train" will be fifty feet long and fourteen feet tall, consisting of a large locomotive pulling a passenger train, and able to carry sixteen people. As such, it will be one of the largest floats in this spectacular annual event.

The sponsoring organization, representing many sectors of the gay community, will be using the float as a way of saying both "Happy Holidays" to all people, and "Thank You" to the thousands of non-gay people who have supported the aims, goals, and rights of gay women and men.

For further information, contact Pat Rocco at (213) 465-2443 or 874-9010.

## THANKSGIVING OPEN HOUSE

Womonspace will hold an open house on Thursday, November 24. All wimmin and children are welcome to drop by and share buffet thanksgiving dinner. 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. 237 Hill Street, Santa Monica. Free.



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## ACLU PLANS LESBIAN ARCHIVE

The Lesbian Rights Committee of ACLU's Gay Rights Chapter is planning a lesbian and feminist archives for their new office at 7906 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 203. Women interested in working on this research project, or with other activities of the committee, are invited to attend the LRC's monthly meetings on Nov. 22 and Dec. 20 in the California Federal Bldg., 5670 Wilshire Blvd., at 7:30. Civil liberties cases involving lesbians are being sought and emergency counseling is available on a 24-hour hotline. Dial H-O-M-O-S-E-X or 846-1808.

## WOMONSPACE CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY

Womonspace will be having a Birthday Party celebrating one year in the Los Angeles feminist community. It will be on Friday, November 18, with a potluck dinner at 7:00 and birthday cake, entertainment and partying at 8:30. All wimmin and children are welcome. \$1 donation: no woman will be turned away for lack of funds. 237 Hill Street, Santa Monica.

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## SNUFF SQUELCHED AGAIN

In mid-September the movie **SNUFF** surfaced in the San Diego area. San Diego feminists became aware of the movie several days after its opening.

In addition to picketing the theatre and passing the word to all feminists in the area their strategies included calling the theatre and newspaper to register their protest and raising community support to rid San Diego of **SNUFF**.

The manager of the theatre, although personally thinking the movie was plotless and disgusting, planned to continue screening it if patrons continued to come. Before the 9 o'clock showing on Sept. 21, he wanted to make a deal. If the women left, he would not show the movie the following evening. But they held strong. They didn't want him to screen the movie that evening. They were not to be moved.

The next day, mothers, teachers and ministers in the neighborhood, contacted by the Coalition, called the theatre to object to the screening. Twenty-five women again arrived that evening to continue the protest. Their efforts had not been in vain. The theatre was closed and **SNUFF** had left San Diego.

### Theater, Concerts, Art, Holiday Bazaar!

All of these events are at The Women's Building, 1727 N. Spring Street, Los Angeles. Call 221-6161 for further info.

"Woman's Experience," presented by the Twelfth Night Repertory Company. Fri. Nov. 4. \$1.50

LESBIAN ART PROJECT, Open House sponsored by Natalie Barney Collective. Sun. Nov. 6. 12 noon to 5 p.m.

CONCERT & DANCE with Baba Yaga (women's band from Oregon). Fri. Nov. 11. 10 p.m. Ticket price not set yet.

AUDITIONS for Femina -- an intra-space voyage, feminist science fiction theater exploration. Directed by Terry Wolverton. Wed. Nov. 9. 7 p.m.

GALLERY OPENING, two one-woman photographic shows. Judith Golden and Sherrie Scheer. Fri. Nov. 11. 7:30 p.m. Also same night, Closing Party for Nancy Fried's Sculptures in Dough.

WOMANENERGY DANCE. Sat. Nov. 12. 8 p.m. \$1.50

WORKSHOP: Lesbian art project work sharing group. Sun. Nov. 13. 12 noon - 5 p.m.

"BLEEDING ROSE": A Vision of Anne Sexton. Directed by Henry Hoffman. Fri. and Sat. Nov. 18 and 19. 8 p.m. \$3 for members.

FASHION SHOW, a performance about women and self-adornment. Also, Grand Opening of THE STORE, a new thrift shop. Sun. Nov. 20. 5 p.m. \$1.

MOVIE, "The Girls" directed by Mai Zetterling. Nov. 25, 26, 27. Fri., Sat., Sun. 8 p.m. \$2.50. Also at 7 p.m. dinner in Val's Cafe. Reservations only.

"LES GUERRILLERES" by Monique Wittig: theater adaptation of Monique Wittig's novel. Fri. & Sat. Dec 2 & 3. 8 p.m. \$3.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR: crafts, gifts, and artwork and feminist products for sale. Fri. & Sat. Dec. 9 & 10. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## WOMAN'S BUILDING SCHOLARSHIPS

Full-time and part-time scholarships are available for all educational programs at the Woman's Building. Persons on a low or fixed income (welfare, disability, social security) or the long-term unemployed can apply by writing to New Moves project director, Susan Albert Loewenberg, 1727 N. Spring Street, Los Angeles, 90012. The winter quarter begins Feb. 23.

## FREE CLASSES ON MENOPAUSE, CANCER, ACUPRESSURE

Menopause will be the subject of a free class on Monday, Nov. 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the Westside Womens's Clinic, 1711 Ocean Park Blvd., Santa Monica. Suzanne Morgan, medical sociologist, will discuss the physical and psychological effects. On Monday, Nov. 14, Barbara Kass, nurse practitioner, will teach women the advantages of self examination for early detection of cancer. She will demonstrate the "clock method" on her own body, fully clothed, noting the body changes a woman should look for. Vaginal and bladder infections is the topic for Monday, Nov. 21. Barbara Kass will present information on vaginitis and cystitis, why they occur, ways to prevent them, and how to treat these infections. Self health with acupressure, taught by Connie Call will be held on Nov. 28. All classes are free and at 7:30 p.m.

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## MOVEMENT STRATEGIES

An open forum, "How to Build the Gay Movement?" will be held Wednesday, Nov. 30, 7:30 p.m. at Great Western Savings, 3660 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles. Free admission. Sponsored by Union of Lesbians and Gay Men. For more information call 463-3706.

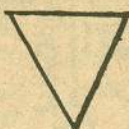
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## "LESBIANS FEMINISTS" TO SHOOT VIDEOTAPE

Lesbian Feminists of Los Angeles is meeting regularly every other week (Nov. 6, 20, etc.) on Sundays at 6 p.m. at ACW, 1147 Alvarado Blvd., CHILDCARE IS PROVIDED. The Media Committee of the Lesbian Feminists is producing a videotape which we hope will have wide media application. We need more women who are able to be completely out about their Lesbianism. If you are interested, please write immediately to Dara Robinson, 1012 Laguna Avenue, L.A. 90026. Please include your name, phone number and occupation.



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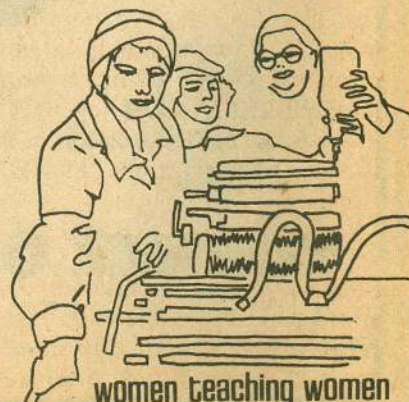
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# Live Oak Woman

continued from page 10

body. It will probably serve women exclusively. Which is fine with me. Men are not my favorite people."



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Live Oak Woman is also part of a collective writing The Holy Bond, and expanded Feminist Book of Lights and Shadows which she anticipates will be as big as Moon, Moon, possibly larger. She expects it to be published late next year. "Random House might do it or we might do it ourselves. Breaking it down into pamphlets is very appealing. It seems that the more we do for ourselves the more we really take care of our own needs. My biggest personal plan is discovering the roots of matriarchal worship of African women, to liberate our Goddess from the strange view that modern Voudoun has put on her."

Many radical women believe that all religions are, by definition, oppressive and that the women's spirituality movement is dangerous to feminism. They fear that they shall lose themselves in mysticism, divert their energy from present political crises into inventing make-believe matriarchies of the past. To these criticisms Oak emphasizes the politics of outreach, stating her conviction that many women could be brought into feminism through spirituality. "Many women cannot absorb a political reality without seeing it in its spiritual context. Women invented religion, invented worship, for a purpose, and that purpose is as valid today as it was 60,000 years ago. Women recreate the past and renew the future--all at the same time. Male religions are stuck with a single male saviour. But every woman who is conscious of her own power is her own saviour."

For Oak, there is no separation between women's spirituality and women's politics. "I look at women's spirituality as a womb to feminism."

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## "Dragging" Through

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### ODE TO MY CROTCH

my crotch warm moist behind jeans seams is a place to prop soda cans and opened sunflower seed packages when i sit in the sun and read or drive over long stretches of road once i rubbed it against rounded refrigerator doors rounded bathtub sides rolled up pillows flashlights saddle horns treee trucks flag poles bottles dolls indiscriminately seeking its pleasure in roundness now it is a willing subject for your caressing hand your thigh rubbing and grinding slowly up and down around your fingers probing seeking paths to its center your wrist rolling pressing from side to side your lips wet sliding through hair up over across my swollenness your tongue flicking striking teasing tasting weaving patterns of exquisite pleasure it touches you kisses your body when i press its hot intensity against the coolness of your skin it touches your crotch wet and warm as we lie moving together it is the hill over which you peek eyes bright chin shining it is the place to which i press your face closer asking for more of lips tongue pleasure it accepts soda cans and sunflower seed packages but it swells and moistens in eager anticipation of your roundness

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## European Gays

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The lesbian members of CHE announced they have set up a nationwide organization, The National Organization For Gay Women (of England). NOGW will set up regional co-ordinators and seeks to be an umbrella group for lesbians in Britain. Elsewhere on the Island, Maureen Colohoun, a British Labour Party Member of Parliament announced in the London Daily Mail she had left her husband to live with another woman, Babe Todd, formerly of the lesbian magazine Sappho. Shortly after the announcement, her party dropped her re-nomination by an 23-18 vote.

Meanwhile in India, that country's first gay rights group, Gay Liberation Front of Bombay announced its formation. India has an estimated 14 million gays.

**THE REIGN IN SPAIN:** King Juan Carlos' much touted "liberalization" of Spanish political life apparently does not extend to Spanish gays. On June 26, while hundreds of thousands (including a contingent of Spanish visitors in New York) were marching for gay rights in America, an estimated 4,000 gay demonstrators in Barcelona were dispersed by police firing rubber bullets. Sponsored by the Gay Liberation Front of Catalonia, this was the first gay demonstration in Spain since the death of Franco. Letters or telegrams to protest this repression may be directed to the Spanish ambassador, Sr. Juan José Rovira, at 2700 15th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

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